


WEATHER



High: 63°
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A&E

Fashion gets trashy

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OPINION

How will you survive the zombie apocalypse?

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SPARTAN DAILY

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Potential students get a taste of the Spartan way

Food, games and tours welcome 9,000 visitors to Admitted Spartan Day

Lyell Marks
Staff Writer

Thousands of wide-eyed, college-bound students beheld SJSU's campus for the first time on Saturday, gazing upon the wide assortment of organizations and student groups that partook in Admitted Spartan Day.

More than 9,000 guests flocked the walkways of campus, greeted by volunteers who orchestrated an event that featured 81 organizations at SJSU, according to Eileen Daley, manager of Student Outreach & Recruitment.

"Of those 9,000 who attended the event, 3,500 were students," Daley stated in an email. "For some families, this was their first visit to San Jose State."

Greeted by a canopy of blue and yellow balloons that marked their entry into Spartan culture, students and family members arrived as early as 7 a.m. to check-in for the day's events, hosted by more than 175 volunteers from across campus, according to Daley.

Volunteers from admissions, financial aid, the bursar's office, housing, graduate admissions, student organizations and orientation leaders were all present for Admitted Spartan Day to inform crowds of potential students of SJSU's resources found across campus, according to Daley.

"I had no idea there were so many campus activities and departments," said high school senior Mark Herbert, who is considering SJSU. "I was amazed at how many options there are for students, no matter what you're into. It's a lot different from high school, that's for sure."

Financial Aid was a frequently



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

Prospective students and their families wait in line for a housing tour of Joe West Hall during Admitted Spartan Day on Saturday.

visited booth, packed with parents and financially savvy students interested in finding out about how they could qualify for reduced tuition.

"We give general information out here," said Carolyn Guel, administrator II of Financial Aid and Scholarships. "If they need anything specific the best bet is to come to the office."

We can't talk about personal information — we just don't have the access from here."

Guests could also go on tours

of SJSU buildings, learn about departments, peruse the Dining Commons and meet the students and faculty who made Admitted Spartan Day possible.

Academic presentations were hosted by the Colleges of Applied Science and Arts, Business, Education, Humanities and Arts, Science, Engineering, Social Science and for undeclared majors, according to the program for Admitted Spartan Day.

The program also included the entire schedule of Saturday's events, detailing tours, special top-

ic workshops and the best places to grab a bite to eat, helping outline the best way for guests to spend their day.

As the events and presentations began to conclude around 2 p.m., a line for the English Placement Test and the Entry-Level Mathematics examination started to form outside Dudley Moorhead Hall.

What started as a line of several dozen waiting to be registered turned into a waiting list that stretched from the the building's northeast door to the grassy knoll

featuring the Tommie Smith and John Carlos Statue.

"I just got here 10 minutes ago and wasn't here for the Admitted Spartan Day," said Eric Sutton, a high school senior who plans to attend SJSU in the fall. "I'm here for the EPT, but had no idea this many people would be too."

While not the highlight for most, the placement tests were another reminder of what the college environment promises for an admitted Spartan, even after a day's worth of fun.

A.S. victors announced at barbecue

Francisco Rendon
Staff Writer

New A.S. government members were announced on Thursday amid music and free food.

Candidates mingled with students at the A.S. Barbecue Pits as tension mounted before the announcement of the winners at 1:30 p.m. before a crowd of about 200.

Jose Mclean, a graduate student in software programming, said he felt the strategy of offering free food was effective in getting students to attend, and he enjoyed the opportunity to have a dialogue with candidates.

"Diversity of students from different majors came together to have fun," he said. "Maybe, like me, they wanted to know who won. I want (student government) to provide new options for students — scholarships and entertainment, as well as education programs."

Brittany Erickson, director of programming affairs, helped organize the event. She said she had enjoyed her job and was glad to provide an opportunity for others

to serve in the same position.

Erickson said she felt events such as the barbecue were important because they provided rare opportunities for students to interact with their board members.

"It's important to get to know A.S. government because they represent the students," she said. "It's the only way the board will know what students want."

Schehrbano Khan, director of faculty affairs, said results of these elections are nerve-racking by nature.

"I was very nervous for my friends," she said. "At the end, everyone was a strong candidate but the reality is somebody has to lose for the other to win."

Ultimately, she said being connected on campus is everything in these elections, as several candidates who won were supported by their fraternity organizations.

"The more involved you are, the more people you know, the better chance you have to win," she said.

Lucreisha Daniels, chief of the A.S. Election Board, said voter turnout this year exceeded 2,100, tying 2008 for the second highest in the last five years.

A.S. President Tomasz Kolodziejak, who was re-elected for a second term, said this election had noticeably more energy than his previous election.

"It was much different," he said. "Maybe because it's a difficult time, a lot of people are concerned about what is going to happen to them. It was serious debate, serious concern."

While Kolodziejak said he was glad to continue serving as president, he hoped the energy behind this year's elections would not become a source of division.

"Let's not split between who voted for who," he said. "We need to have a unified voice."

A challenge facing A.S. was a lack of awareness of what the organization is or how it affects students' experience at SJSU, Kolodziejak said, citing a survey conducted by A.S.

The organization decided to create a presidential address to the campus in the form of a YouTube video to raise awareness of what A.S. is, Kolodziejak said, but postponed making this video until after elections so as not to give the incumbent an advantage.

Arab uprisings a sign of the times, says professor

Nic Aguon
Staff Writer

A guest lecturer spoke at the Engineering Auditorium on Thursday evening about the recent uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa and how the United States should allow democratic movements to grow in these regions.

Mahmood Monshipouri, an international relations professor from San Francisco State University, began his lecture with one question for the audience to keep in mind: Can democracy work in the Middle East and North Africa?

"These uprisings are not over," said Persis Karim, associate professor of English and comparative literature. "I want to encourage students to follow the news."

Based on events that took place in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya, Monshipouri said nature should take its course in the Middle East and North Africa and that the West should back off from support.

"The outcome is something we are not comfortable with," he said.

"So why should we support them?"

Monshipouri specializes in human rights, identity construction and globalization in the Muslim world. There were 21 attendees at Monshipouri's lecture, a combination of students and non-students.

The event was sponsored by the Silicon Valley Middle East Studies Consortium, which consists of SJSU, Santa Clara University and San Jose City College.

Karim introduced Monshipouri, speaking about his background and accomplishments. Monshipouri's lecture involved the 9/11 terrorist attacks as well as recent events that have occurred in Tunisia and Egypt. "The attacks on 9/11 pushed aside human rights and democratic principles," he said.

Monshipouri said information technology is changing the global balance of power.

"The globalization of information and democratic values has made leaderless and spontaneous uprisings possible," he said. "The beauty

A.S. Elections: Meet the Executive Branch

Ron Gleeson
Staff Writer

PRESIDENT



Tomasz Kolodziejek

Responsibilities

- Official voice of students at SJSU
- In charge of Student Services
- President & CEO of A.S.

Tomasz Kolodziejek has been re-elected and is fueled by his advertised “5 S” plan, which he said he plans to stick by during his second semester as A.S. president.

“It is something I am very passionate about,” he said. “I am more than willing to hear ideas for changes to it and it would be great to have people critique and work on it.”

Kolodziejek said he believes returning for a second semester as A.S. president will produce the best results in the interests of students based on the experience he gained in his first term as president.

“In best interest for students, I really want-

ed to win this election,” he said. “The learning curve is huge for this position. You have to learn the entire structure of the university, something I found difficult in my first term as president.”

Kolodziejek will be representing students on the front of the budget war in California, which he said is the largest challenge on his plate coming into another semester as president.

“Our pending budget cuts are the biggest problems we face as not only student leaders but students as well,” he said. “It affects not only SJSU but the entire CSU system as a whole.”

Kolodziejek said he has created two options in response to the budget cuts that will be made to the CSU system — advocacy and scholarships.

“We responded last year by sending busloads of students to Sacramento to protest against the budget cuts,” he said. “Obviously something has to be cut, but we are attempting to make sure education stays a priority.”

Kolodziejek, in coordination with A.S., launched a new scholarship program during the spring semester that aimed to give lo-

cal students opportunities to help fund their educations based on both need and merit, and Kolodziejek said he is committed to expanding this program.

“One of the biggest things I want to accomplish as returning A.S. president is to expand our scholarship program,” he said. “We plan on reaching out to alumni for donations to our A.S. scholarship fund.”

Now that elections are over, Kolodziejek hopes to head toward a more unified student government where individual titles are virtually erased.

“I would hope we develop one unified student voice,” he said. “We are students working for the students on the university. We need to work together to be an effective student government.”

Kolodziejek’s Five Ss

- Scholarships
- Student success
- Spartan pride
- Student outreach
- Strong representation

VICE PRESIDENT



Calvin Worsnup

The current director of student fee affairs, Calvin Worsnup, has been named the new A.S. vice president for the fall semester.

Worsnup said his main objective as the new vice president will be to create unity throughout the board of directors and begin on a collaborative effort to appease the demands of students.

“Currently, each director works on their own individual project that relates to their position,” he said. “I hope to get different positions to work together so we can accomplish

Responsibilities

- Chairman of Board of Directors
- Plans agendas for board meetings
- Signs all resolutions met; sends off to the president for approval

more as a group rather than as individuals and work toward A.S. projects as a whole.”

In addition to organizing projects for board members to collaborate on, Worsnup said he would also like to continue spreading a cooperative environment by starting town hall meetings on campus where students would be able to attend and give input on board discussions about current and important issues.

“One of the main concerns of students is they don’t know what A.S. does or what policies we cover,” he said. “Addressing those needs is going to be one of my goals for next semester.”

His experience as director of student fee affairs is something Worsnup said will help him a great amount as he begins his term as vice president.

“I have a much better understanding of how A.S. works — both on the corporate side and the government side,” he said. “My experiences have allowed me to meet a lot of people and use our resources effectively.”

Worsnup said his experience working with A.S. in the past will ease the transition for newcomers to the board of directors into their new positions — something he said usually takes up to two months to become comfortable with.

CONTROLLER



Leroy Madarang

Leroy Madarang, a newcomer to the A.S. Board of Directors, was elected controller over his three fellow candidates, which was the most among all open positions.

“I am extremely humbled,” he said. “I know the people who voted for me have faith in me to successfully hold this position.”

Madarang said one way he will consider his term successful is if he makes financial spending information more easily

Responsibilities

- Handles \$7 million budget
- Approves/denies funding requests from student organizations
- Publicizes financial reports to the general student body

available to students.

“A lot of students do not know where our money is going, specifically number wise,” he said. “One of my goals is to make that information more viewable as well as more understandable for students.”

Madarang has been working on the finance committee of the A.S. Board of Directors for the past two years, and said he believes it is something that has prepared him well for the position he is slated to take.

As controller Madarang is responsible for all fiscal legislation and chairs finance committee meetings.

“Working on the finance committee has allowed me to see first hand how the process works,” he said. “I have gotten to see a little of how the controller works and what he does, which I believe has helped me a lot.”

Overall, Madarang wants clearer and more active lines of communication between he and the students, something he said will make his job much easier.

“We want more student input,” he said. “We want to know where they want their money to go.”

The New Associated Students Board of Directors 2011 -12

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Mark Stockdale
- Director of Communications
Jay Singh
- Director of Extracurricular Activities
Ryan Morgado

- Director of Intercultural Affairs
Hector Shlimovitch
- Director of Internal Affairs
Kimberly Uweh
- Director of Programming Affairs
Lakendra Hardwick

- Director of Student Fee Affairs
Katie Minks
- Director of Student Rights & Responsibilities
Christina Solorzano
- Director of Faculty Affairs
Schehrbano Khan
- Director of University Advising Affairs
Lori Salazar

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Researcher: Search for alien life is a worthwhile pursuit for the public

Eric Austin
Staff Writer

Whether it's one-eyed green aliens or multicellular organisms from the Eagle Nebula, the quest to determine if we are alone in this universe is ongoing.

Jill Tarter, director of the Center for SETI Research, posed that question to the audience during a symposium on the "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence" hosted by the College of Engineering on Thursday.

Tarter has spent much of her life in pursuit of an answer to this question and came to SJSU armed with more than 15 years of experience in advocating the importance in pursuing this scientific venture.

Brandon Maack, a freshman civil engineering major, said he did not know anything about SETI before coming to the symposium and found Tarter's talk compelling.

"It was more interesting than the other symposiums I have been to," he said. "She was a good speaker and she seemed like she actually wanted to be here and talk to us."

People not familiar with Tarter or the SETI program may be familiar with the motion picture "Contact," for which Tarter's work was a major influence and the main character Ellie Arroway, played by Jodie Foster, was based on Tarter herself, according to the SETI Institute website.

Tarter spent most of her one-hour talk covering the technical aspects of SETI's recent work to the hundred-or-so engineering students in attendance. This recent work included the Allen Telescope Array and the new setiQuest project.

The array, located just north of Lassen Volcanic National Park in California, is currently the highest resolution panchromatic, wide-angle telescope available to radio astronomers and it is also the largest array of radio tele-

"We live in a fragile island of life in a universe of possibilities."

Jill Tarter,
SETI Research

scopes devoted to the SETI project, she said.

Similar to SETI@home, a project that allows anyone with a computer to help search for extraterrestrial intelligence by donating their CPU time to crunching data, Tarter said setiQuest is designed to encourage interaction with the general public by allowing citizen scientists to comb through the array's copious amounts of data for possible extraterrestrial signals.

While the SETI Institute's recent work was the main topic of the symposium, Tarter began and ended her talk by making an argument for why the SETI Institute is even worthy of attention and support, something that is not new to Tarter.

"We live in a fragile island of life in a universe of possibilities," she said, and one of these possibilities has recently been discovered to be more than just a possibility.

Tarter said there is now strong evidence in favor of there being Earth-like planets orbiting other stars thanks to NASA's Kepler Mission which has discovered 15 confirmed planets along with 1,235 planet candidates in the last year.

This discovery has garnered more evidence in favor of the SETI project as well as more attention, she said.

"The public, in general, does not think very far beyond the tip of their noses until something like this shows them something that they can really internalize and feel visceral about," she said. "People are really starting to understand that there really are planets out there and there really is a possibility of there being extraterrestrial intelligence."

Mark Becker, a senior software engineering major, said he was glad he came to the symposium as SETI is not something that he hears much about.

"It is a topic that, not technically, represented much and she did a good job," he said. "If SETI was spoken about, more people would understand why it is important to do it."

ARAB From Page 1

of what is happening in North Africa is that they are causing a spontaneous revolution."

One event involved Mohammed Bouazizi, an unlicensed fruit vendor in Tunisia who lit himself on fire in public in the town of Sidi Bouzid. This resulted in an uprising by the Tunisians, after which Ben Ali, the leader of Tunisia, went into exile.

"When fear is conquered, there is no turning back," Monshipouri said. "Today's youth is a generation that is not afraid of anything and doesn't know the rules of the game."

He spoke about civil resistance and how television has played an increasingly important part in its success.

He said there is a large population of young people in the Middle East and North Africa that are educated and connected to the outside world, yet have limited access to jobs or professional opportunities.

"We have to learn to come to terms with the new realities in North Africa," Monshipouri said. "Americans cannot shape events. History shapes itself."

Regarding the June 2009 presidential elections in Iran, Monshipouri pointed out that the rise of the Green Movement inspired the youth of Iran — dressed in their traditional clothes, there were teens tweeting on their cell phones, showcasing the power of information technology.

"We need to step back and let things shape naturally," he said. "We are only here to witness these events unfold."

He said information technology drove the uprisings in Egypt this past February,

and the combination of the youth revolution and online networking resulted in civil uprisings.

"You cannot put human rights above politics," he said. "Sometimes in the name of peace, we have to let go of justice."

Wyatt Brafford, a junior religious studies major, said he thought Monshipouri's lecture was interesting and well researched.

"He knows a lot about the Middle East and makes a good point as to why America should leave and let things take its course," he said.

Monshipouri said the benefits of democratization far outweigh its risks.

He used an excerpt from an article written by Boston University Professor Andrew

Bacevich that explains how the U.S. military has given up on winning the war in the Middle East, and that armed nation-building in Afghanistan is not a suitable task for U.S. troops.

De Anza College student T.J. Huweih said he thought the lecture was informative.

"I think it's about us being here and being comfortable here," he said. "It's a good first step to recognize what is going on here."

Monshipouri said students should tune into Al-Jazeera, a network he compares to the BBC, and that people have to be cautious with the thought of revolution.

"Peace and stability is bigger than justice," he said. "People are looking for opportunities with waves of change."

CAMPUS IMAGES



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

Sharanjeet Singh Hundal, a senior electrical engineering major, wraps Becca Cuellar's, a senior spatial arts major, head in a turban at the Art quad on Thursday.

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Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

Dung Tran, the Trashion Fashion Show's first-place winner, shows off her self-made outfit made from the Spartan Daily.

FASHION SHOW

Rags turn to riches when creativity blooms

Anastasia Crosson
Staff Writer

Trash bag menswear, a loofah dress and a newspaper bustier — no, Lady Gaga did not make a surprise visit to campus — these were just a few of the recycled creations that student designers showcased on the runway at the Second Annual Trashion Fashion Show on Thursday.

Hosted by the Associated Students, the Campus Village Quad was packed with onlookers catching glimpses of one-of-a-kind fashions that SJSU students made of 80-percent post-consumer materials.

Down to the plastic water bottle “curtains” decorating the runway, the event aimed to raise awareness about reducing waste and over-consumption while reusing materials to create works of high-fashion art.

“One of the messages we are trying to put out there is to use less water, plastics and not waste,” said Aliana Plingu, A.S. director of community and environmental affairs. “Recycle clothes ordonate them. Throwing clothes away is not only wasting money but also resources.”

Plingu sat on the judges’ panel for the Trashion Fashion Show, alongside this



Photo: Michelle Terris / Spartan Daily

Model Cassandra Lovehope struts down the runway, showing off a dress constructed from dyed receipts, made by designer Andrea Henneman.

year’s A.S. homecoming king and queen.

The judges’ panel evaluated each of the original fashion submissions for five key criteria: creativity, durability, aesthetic appeal, model’s confidence and overall look.

Onlookers cheered each piece as models walked down the runway, but it was the judges’ decision which placed the most deserving creations into first, second and third place.

A fashion show of previously loved ensembles from Crossroads Trading Co., a second-hand clothing

store, followed the showcase of student submissions.

Safari-inspired animal-printed skirts and one-piece rompers from an earth-tone palette kept the looks contemporary and updated for spring.

Club hits blared from speakers on both sides of the runway while the event emcee, Director of Extracurricular Affairs LaKendra Hardwick, raffled off door prizes, keeping revelers entertained for a brief intermission while the judges’ panel deliberated over the next Trashion Fashion Show winners.

A final run of the pieces, this time with designers accompanying their models and creations, brought the event to its close before the judges’ decisions.

Dung Tran, a junior advertising major, placed first for an a-line party dress constructed of newspaper, adorned with a burlap sack bow and paper rosettes.

The dress evoked a whimsical look one would expect from an interpretation of Lewis Carroll’s Queen of Hearts.

Tran was a newcomer to the Trashion

Fashion Show, but had previous experience with fashion design having completed a fashion program at West Valley Community College.

As the first-place winner, Tran received a \$175 dollar cash prize and two tickets to a Bay Area fashion show.

The second-place prize was \$75 dollars and \$50 dollars for third place.

Andrea Henneman, a senior photography major, placed second for a dramatic, floor-length, backless dress constructed of lottery tickets and convenience store receipts, hand-dyed with beet juice.

Henneman also placed second at last year’s show, for a dress constructed from photo paper and dental floss.

Third place was awarded to freshman biology major Tiffany Pham.

Pham’s creation was the only menswear piece entered into the Trashion Fashion Show, a pant suit with circa-1980s over-sized blazer constructed from plastic trash bags.

Pham said she saw advertisements for the design competition on campus and “Instantly, I wanted to do this.”

“It makes people think, ‘Oh my God, I can make that out of recycled materials?’” Pham said.

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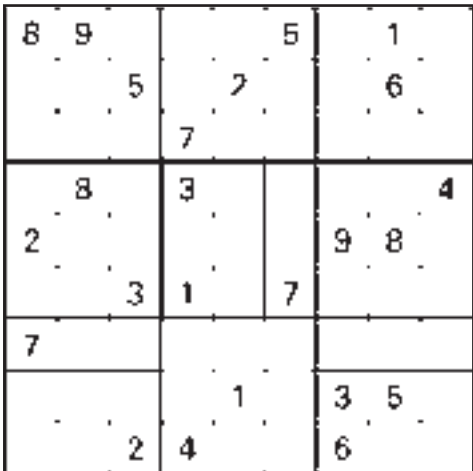
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TODAY'S SUDOKU PUZZLE



PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

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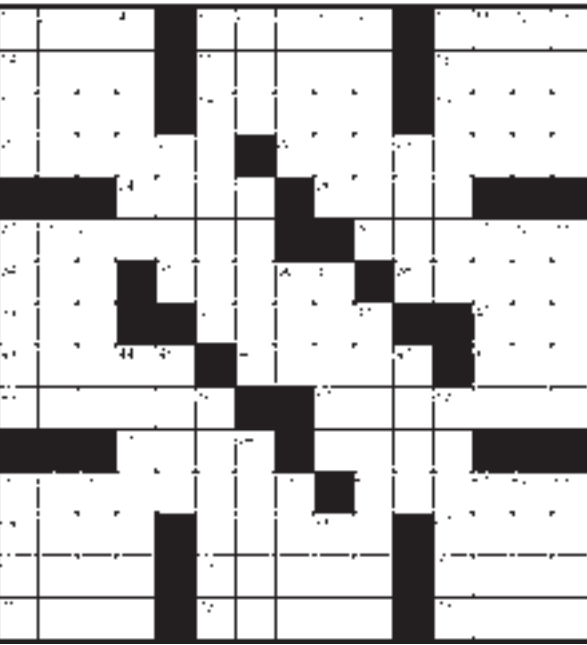
- 1 Pig latin
- 5 Ye green-green pears
- 10 Ledge rages
- 14 Holly tree
- 15 Column type
- 16 Bump bottom
- 17 Dragon's breath
- 18 What wash comes to
- 19 Ganga neighbor
- 20 Anti-Joe
- 22 Spent a soucer
- 24 Wave cutter
- 25 Pol'graph-funker
- 27 Age of pearl
- 30 Loud sounds
- 34 Maggie May singer
- 36 Expensive
- 38 Deep pink
- 39 Garden-sport fast
- 40 Filiation
- 42 Galeon cargo
- 43 Blow away
- 46 City near nation
- 48 Cupster
- 49 Objects
- 51 Hockey players
- 52 Door sound
- 53 Nature's band-a-aid
- 55 Fervid myth
- 62 Space telescope
- 64 Wicker
- 65 Nintendo literature
- 67 Joe de wro
- 68 From ten
- 69 Spy master
- 70 Shrimp's sighting
- 71 Injerd
- 72 Three for the ride
- 73 Illegal

DOWN

- 1 Vex
- 2 Hodgepodge

PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED

1 Across: 1. Pig latin, 2. Hodgepodge, 3. Plugs away, 4. Not perfect, 5. Ye green-green pears, 6. Plugs away, 7. Plugs away, 8. Plugs away, 9. Plugs away, 10. Ledge rages, 11. Ledge rages, 12. Spent a soucer, 13. Plugs away, 14. Holly tree, 15. Column type, 16. Bump bottom, 17. Dragon's breath, 18. What wash comes to, 19. Ganga neighbor, 20. Anti-Joe, 21. Plugs away, 22. Spent a soucer, 23. Plugs away, 24. Wave cutter, 25. Pol'graph-funker, 26. Plugs away, 27. Age of pearl, 28. Plugs away, 29. Plugs away, 30. Loud sounds, 31. Plugs away, 32. Plugs away, 33. Plugs away, 34. Maggie May singer, 35. Plugs away, 36. Expensive, 37. Plugs away, 38. Deep pink, 39. Garden-sport fast, 40. Filiation, 41. Plugs away, 42. Galeon cargo, 43. Blow away, 44. Plugs away, 45. Plugs away, 46. City near nation, 47. Plugs away, 48. Cupster, 49. Objects, 50. Plugs away, 51. Hockey players, 52. Door sound, 53. Nature's band-a-aid, 54. Plugs away, 55. Fervid myth, 56. Plugs away, 57. Plugs away, 58. Plugs away, 59. Plugs away, 60. Plugs away, 61. Plugs away, 62. Space telescope, 63. Plugs away, 64. Wicker, 65. Nintendo literature, 66. Plugs away, 67. Joe de wro, 68. From ten, 69. Spy master, 70. Shrimp's sighting, 71. Injerd, 72. Three for the ride, 73. Illegal



Bonds trial opens eyes to bonds issue

Finally, a decision has been reached in the everlasting epic of former San Francisco Giants' slugger Barry Bonds.

Captain Ahab, the government, can put down his spear gun and be proud that he nicked the whale.

Bonds was convicted on one of four charges on Wednesday, losing out on the obstruction of justice charge.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston declared a mistrial on the other three charges, which alleged that Bonds made false statements when he told a grand jury in December 2003 that he never knowingly received steroids and human growth hormones from trainer Greg Anderson.

But with all that said and done, what can we take from this debacle? Was this court decision worthy of the time — 7 ½ years — and money put in to it?

The general consensus seems to be “meh.”

The ruling won't change anyone's views on Bonds. The cantankerous hitter is not a likeable guy in general, and his admitted — albeit unknowing — use of steroids, which assisted him in his rise to the all-time record for career home runs, doesn't help.

Overall, the ruling seems like it resulted in no more than a slap on the wrist, as it always does for the rich and famous. Bonds' obstruction of justice charge can result in as little as what would be a small fine (for him) to up to 10 years in prison, which is unlikely.

Now, back to the money: At what cost was this “justice” achieved?

Reports from a slew of reputed news organizations list the price tag of this 7 ½-year witch hunt by the government at \$6 million.

... Yeah, that just happened.

Those are six million taxpayer dollars that could have been used for gee, I don't know: Education, roads, prisons, state worker pensions, et cetera et cetera. Need I say more?

That's a hell of a lot of money spent to prove that a guy lied. I'm all



Marlon Maloney
One-Man Peanut Gallery

for keeping up the allure of respect for our court system the government desperately seeks to uphold, but in a state that's operating at a deficit of more than \$25 billion I think we could afford to look the other way on this one.

Ultimately, the money spent on the Bonds trial is a pittance when compared to the wholly ungodly sum of money that our great state owes.

Damn the weed! California is hooked on borrowing.

According to credit-rating agency Moody Investors Service, over the last 10 years, the average California resident's debt has tripled to \$2,362 — Multiply by the 37 million-plus citizens of California, carry the one ...

California has the lowest credit rating of any state in the country, and it's to the point now that bonds are no longer a viable option for people to keep their heads above water. The latest report from California Treasurer Bill Lockyer states that California now has \$77.8 billion in outstanding bonds.

It's time to put down the box of Band-Aids and start focusing on fixing our current predicament, meaning higher taxes, no more bonds and fewer services. Tough to do, but it must be done.

This debt can't be blamed solely on our state government. Over the past decade, voters have approved billions in spending on things such as stem cell research and high speed railways, causing us to continuously dig into our collective rainy day funds.

As I said before, \$6 million is a drop in the bucket, but I'd like to think our state government would be making more fiscally responsible decisions at this point in the game.

As former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said after his election, it's time to “cut up the state's credit card.”

“One-Man Peanut Gallery” is a column appearing every other Monday. Marlon Maloney is a Spartan Daily Copy Editor.

Democrat or Republican, the middle class gets the short end of the stick

How do the powerful keep the U.S. population dumb and distracted?

A key tactic has been using methodologies that produce misleading estimates of key economic factors.

First we learned that official unemployment figures are too low.

The official rate of inflation hitting consumers is even more inaccurate. You will hear about a low inflation rate of less than 3 percent. In reality, it is closer to 10 percent.

It is difficult for any one of us to have first-hand evidence that national unemployment is really much higher than what the government says, even though most of us know people who are out of work or taking part-time work out of sheer necessity.

But when it comes to rising prices hitting our pockets, credit cards and checkbooks, we have a much clearer sense of what is really happening.

Gasoline prices have jumped more than 10 percent in recent weeks and for most of us is about a dollar more per gallon than a year ago.

Some experts are predicting that \$4 gas will soon hit most of the nation and, even worse, that \$5 gas may hit us this summer.

Food prices are also jumping like a frog on crack cocaine.

Many of them are masked by smaller weight packaging. Health care costs, especially insurance premiums and drugs, have also hit many Americans substantially and painfully.

High inflation has hit people who have seen their incomes decline especially hard. Those on Social Security receiving no cost-of-living increase have every right to be angry.

The federal government is manipulating statistics intentionally to get a low number for inflation as well as unemployment to mask just how awful and unfair the economy really is.

Political leaders in both major parties use this propaganda strategy, as if there are simply too few intelligent Americans to see through the lies.

Sadly, they seem to be correct.

While banks and financial companies that are too big to fail benefit the rich, when it comes to the economy, plutocrats think it is counterproductive to tell the truth.

Who is falling for the economic propaganda?

Gallup, an organization that tracks public opinion, measures optimism about the economy as a function of age, income and political party affiliation. Worst of all are Democrats and the young.

Meanwhile the Federal Reserve keeps printing money to cope with the budget deficit and national debt problems, which is a major reason for the sharp increases in gasoline prices.

None of this, of course, matters much to the rich and powerful elite who are doing just fine and buying more luxury items.

By the way, if anyone's interested, Dr. Phil is selling his \$15 million mansion estate so he can buy an even bigger one for \$30 million.

Over at Ford, the CEO recently received \$56.5 million in stock and last year pulled down an additional \$26.5 million in annual compensation — amounting to about 910 times the annual pay of entry-level Ford workers.

In 2011, Americans who make more than \$1 million will pay just about 23 percent of their incomes in federal income tax.

In 1961, the Institute for Policy Studies noted in its annual Tax Day report, Americans who made more than \$1 million — adjusted for inflation — paid about 43 percent of their incomes to the IRS.

That was when the middle class was prospering.

If congressional Republicans get their way, the middle class will feel considerable pain from program-



Salman Haqqi
On The Contrary

cutting tactics to curb the national debt, while the rich upperclass gets more tax breaks and keeps sapping the wealth of the nation as Democrats lack the courage to fight hard for increasing their taxes.

With rising economic inequality the U.S. is rapidly becoming a two-class society.

Whenever I listen to Obama and congressional leaders it is like watching a skit on “Saturday Night Live” or “The Daily Show.”

How many more millions of Americans must experience pain and suffering, go hungry, lose their homes, lose their jobs, postpone retirement and go without decent health care before the public snaps out of its stupor?

When will Americans rise up as those in Tunisia and Egypt did and tear down their corrupt and dysfunctional government?

With unemployment at 20 percent, inflation at 10 percent, a multitrillion dollar national debt and nothing but lies from politicians, do we still believe that voting in different Republicans or Democrats will fix things?

I think not.

“On The Contrary” is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Salman Haqqi is the Spartan Daily Executive Editor.

Comment on any of these opinions at spartandailyeditorial@sjsmedia.com

Preparing for Z-day

When I write these editorials for the Spartan Daily I try to make something meaningful that can appeal to my readers on both an emotional and spiritual level.

This week, I decided to address a very important issue — how we are going to survive the zombie apocalypse?

We all know it's coming, 2012 is right around the corner, birds are falling out of the sky in Arkansas and Donald Trump is thinking of running for president.

I can see it now, as soon as the Mayan calendar ends, a huge pandemic will hit the world.

It'll start as a cold, followed by an intense fever that quickly leads to an extreme case of muscle spasms. Death will quickly set in, followed by the reanimation process when your dear loved ones start hungering for brains and flesh.

But it's okay, I'm here to tell you how to survive this horrible future.

First off, the most obvious thing you need to do is stock up on firearms.

I like the “Evil Dead” shotgun approach.

It's good, it's efficient, it gets the job done

and it makes you feel like a badass when you're blowing the zombies' brains out.

Second, start getting yourself blunt objects in case you run out of shells.

If watching “Shaun of the Dead” has taught me anything, it's that zombies can be stopped by “removing the head or destroying the brain” with blunt weapons such as a cricket bat.

As a practitioner of kendo I already have several wooden practice swords that can easily crack the skulls of any zombies who dare try to take a bite out of me.

The next thing you need to get is some body armor. I say start investing in shark-diving chain-mail.

Think about it, it's lighter than normal chain-mail, it protects against the arguably more lethal shark bites (pray there aren't any zombie sharks out there in the ocean “shudders”), and eventually the zombie will just get bored of trying to bite through it and leave you alone.

Next, get yourself a posse. You'll need to follow the zombie movie archetypes so you'll need



Wesley Dugle
Wes Side Story

your weapons and arms expert who will get shit done when the zombies are coming in from all angles — a big muscular guy who resembles Bruce Campbell would be perfect.

You need a hot-wire/computer expert — who probably should be Asian — who can get a car rolling for you or get into a heavily fortified safe house.

You need the hot girl (or guy for you ladies) who steadily becomes your love interest as you battle through waves of zombies and keeps you going when things get tough — I prefer a brunette.

Then of course the fat guy who may or may not be bitten who you have to shoot in the head in an overly dramatic scene after getting away from a horde of zombies — any fat guy would do here.

Lastly, find yourself a safe place to crash.

I've thought long and hard about this but I'm convinced the safest and best place to stay during a zombie apocalypse is ... Costco.

I can sense some of you pulling away right now going “WTF?” but seriously the best place to go is Costco.

Yes, the place where you can buy four-gallon tubs of ice cream and mountains of toilet paper that will last you for a year is the place to go during Z-day.

Think about it, metal doors that can't easily be knocked down and a whole warehouse of food, clothing, electronics and more.

All the supplies could probably last you years!

So let's recap.

Shotguns and blunt objects are a must for your zombie-killing tools. Next, anti-shark chainmail to protect you from lethal bites, and a posse of ragtag survivors will be needed to help you get through the zombie hordes.

And lastly, go to Costco because your place for great deals on wholesale products is also your impenetrable fortress against the undead.

The year 2012 is not that far away people, prepare yourselves for the coming apocalypse — don't be caught dead!

“Wes Side Story” is a weekly column appearing on Mondays. Wesley Dugle is a Spartan Daily Staff Writer.

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Sports briefs: Baseball team struggles, women’s golf wins conference

Baseball

Aggies rip SJSU’s pitching to win series

Staff Report

The SJSU baseball team lost three out of four games to the New Mexico State Aggies over the weekend in Las Cruces, allowing a season-high 20 runs in the series finale.

In Friday’s opener, SJSU starter Roberto Padilla gave up five runs in the sixth inning allowing the Aggies to take their first lead of the game. They never relinquished the lead, winning 9-5.

In the first game of Saturday’s doubleheader, Blake McFarland, preseason Western Athletic Conference pitcher of year, allowed seven runs in three innings. John Austin relieved him, allowing nine runs in two innings.

The Aggies went on to win 16-8, as Aggies leadoff man Wesley Starkes finished the day with five hits.

In the nightcap, SJSU starter Esteban Guzman gave up three runs in 6 2/3 innings and Zack Jones closed out the seventh, eighth and ninth innings to lead the Spartans to a 7-3 victory.

Between the second and sixth innings, Guzman retired 13 Aggie hitters in a row.

In Sunday’s finale, Ryan Aguayo had four hits and five RBIs as the Aggies blitzed the Spartans 20-8. SJSU blew a 7-1 lead early in the game, allowing 15 runs in the fourth inning, a season high for the most runs given up by the Spartans in any inning.

New Mexico State (27-9, 5-3) leads the conference in batting average and in runs scored with 363. SJSU is second in the conference with 211 runs scored.

The Spartans (23-14, 3-5) allowed 48 runs in the four-game series, 20 runs more than the team had allowed in any four consecutive games this year.

The 20 runs the Spartans allowed on Sunday were the most they had allowed in a game since 1996.

SJSU hosts Louisiana Tech for a four-game series starting Thursday.

■ COMMENTARY

Wesley Dugle
Staff Writer

Most Golden State Warriors fans usually find themselves asking “Can it get any worse?”

At this season’s end however, I think more fans will be asking “Can it get better?”

The Warriors came into this season with low expectations by most NBA pundits, but they exceeded those expectations.

The first season under new head coach Keith Smart may not have yielded a playoff berth for the Warriors, but they have definitely seen an improvement over the previous seasons with Don Nelson when inconsistency was the norm.

The Warriors’ backcourt is arguably the best in the league with second-year point guard Stephen Curry and star shooting guard Monta Ellis.

The two have formed a dynamic duo that’s hard for most teams to match up against, combining for roughly 43 points, 12 assists and 5 steals a game this season.

Several newcomers proved to be valuable additions to the Warriors as well.

Golden State has always had issues matching up against other teams in the frontcourt in the past but free agent acquisitions David Lee and Dorell Wright helped alleviate that a little this season.

While Lee’s numbers were slightly down from the previous season, the power forward still averaged near a double-double per game with 16.5 points and 9.6 rebounds.

Defensively, he is an upgrade over former Warrior Corey Maggette who was shipped off to Milwaukee during the offseason. Maggette did little more than score points and get injured while he was here.

Wright was perhaps the biggest surprise of all the free agent acquisitions of the season.

Wright averaged career highs in nearly every statis-

tical category this season, leading the NBA with 142 3-pointers and is one of the favorites for the Most Improved Player of the Year Award.

The Warriors also had several solid players contributing off the bench too, such as second-year guard Reggie Williams, midseason acquisition Al Thornton, and the underrated role player Lou Amundson who came over in the offseason as well.

The Warriors also had quality wins over tough playoff opponents such as New York, Portland, New Orleans, Orlando, Dallas and even the two-time-defend-



Photo: DonovanFarnham / Spartan Daily
Katie Valleau holds an award at the WAC Championships.

Gymnastics

Valleau’s final routine scores a 9.725

Staff Report

Junior Katie Valleau finished tied for 36th in the second session on floor in the NCAA Championships of gymnastics over the weekend in Cleveland.

According to Spartan Athletics, Valleau was the first event specialist in SJSU history to compete in the NCAA Championships. She received a 9.725 for her routine.

Women’s golf

Spartans win third straight WAC title

Staff Report

The SJSU women’s golf team edged New Mexico State by two strokes to win its third consecutive WAC Championship in Mesa, Ariz., over the weekend.

Madeleine Ziegert finished second in the individual standings, shooting a 1-over par.

After the tournament, Ziegert was awarded first team All-WAC by the conference’s coaches.

Jennifer Brumbaugh took third place with a 6-over par and Katrina Delen-Briones finished tied for fourth with a 7-over par.

Delen-Briones was named second-team All-WAC after the tournament as well.

It was the Spartans fifth WAC Championship since it became a member of the WAC in 1996.

By winning the WAC Championship, the Spartans received an automatic bid to the NCAA Regionals on May 5-7 in Seattle.

BASEBALL LEADERS

Danny Stienstra	Hits	57
Tyler Christian	Home runs	5
Craig Hertler	Runs	26
Danny Stienstra	Average	.383
Danny Stienstra	RBIs	33
Zack Jones	SLG%	.486
Roberto Padilla	Wins	6
Zack Jones	ERA	2.25
Zack Jones	Saves	7

Warriors to center in on frontcourt options this offseason

ing-champion Los Angeles Lakers.

All this contributed to a nice 10-game improvement over the previous season with a 36-46 record, leaving Warriors fans feeling some hope for next season.

Moving forward, the Warriors need to improve their frontcourt further by adding a dominant center or power forward to play alongside Lee and Wright.

If the Warriors could sign a notable center hitting free agency this offseason, such as Glen “Big Baby” Davis or Tyson Chandler, then they could have a formidable frontcourt to play alongside

the backcourt of Curry and Ellis.

As the Lakers have proven, size does matter and bigger frontcourts often yield better defensive results.

There’s no doubt the Warriors can score against anybody, but their run-and-gun

style takes away from their defense, and as they say “Defense wins championships.”

Barring an NBA lockout next season, the Warriors should see some improvement moving forward.

They have the stars in Ellis, Curry and Lee but they



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